

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 689
By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Second Lieutenant
Richard Torres for his heroic sacrifice while
performing his duties in Iraq.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home or duty station of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, multitudes of young Americans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army and other branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, one such brave and dedicated young American was Second Lieutenant Richard Torres of Passaic, New Jersey; born February 7, 1978, the son of Julian and Dora Torres, immigrants to this country from Peru, Richard graduated from Passaic High School in 1996, enlisted in the Army, and was assigned to the 329th Engineer Battalion at Fort Campbell as a combat engineer; and

WHEREAS, while in the Army, Richard won the prestigious Green to Gold Scholarship and used it to graduate from Austin Peay State University in May 2002 with a double major in political science and history and a minor in military science; his entire family made the trip from New Jersey for his graduation with a Bachelor degree, which he had planned as a stepping stone for either a law degree or a Ph.D. in military science; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Austin Peay, Richard served as the ROTC Cadet Battalion Operations Officer and Second Lieutenant Goldbar Recruiter; Lieutenant Colonel Pat O'Hara, Professor of Military Science at APSU said of him, "... Truly an 'all-around' outstanding young man! He possessed all the attributes and qualities of a junior leader in the Army. He also

exhibited and lived his life by our Army values. Absolutely one of the best cadets, in the Corps of Cadets, during my tenure here at APSU..."; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherry Hoppe, President of Austin Peay State University, authorized the Department of Military Science to name the advance course classroom "Torres Hall" in honor of Richard's sacrifice for his country; the dedication preserves Lieutenant Torres memory as an outstanding young man and dedicated student at APSU; and

WHEREAS, Richard Torres had married his high school sweetheart, Linda, and their life together, though far too short, was filled with love and many plans for the future; as a new lieutenant, he completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia and was stationed with the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, an assignment that put him in the same state with his beloved New York Yankees; and

WHEREAS, his unit was sent to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; on October 6, 2003, Lieutenant Torres was on patrol in Iskandariyah, Iraq, just west of Baghdad, when a "homemade incendiary device" was detonated by "unknown assailants", taking his life; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother, and husband, Richard Torres had wanted to pursue his education and raise a family; like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, he did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Richard Torres served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed; for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly joins with Lieutenant Torres' parents, Julian and Dora Torres; his brother Stewart and his widow Linda in mourning the untimely death of this courageous young American; he will be remembered by his family, his fellow soldiers, and his many friends for his sense of honor, duty, and courage, his love of life and his loyalty and conviction; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Torres performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism - service which can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the citizens of New Jersey and Tennessee and with all Americans in extending to the family of Lieutenant Torres our profound condolences for the loss of this brave young man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deep gratitude for his heroic sacrifice for his nation and the cause of freedom; his valor and commitment will live in our hearts as an enduring example of all that is good and noble in service to country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.